

Medicine To Treat: \_\_\_\_\_

**C**ardiac Diseases

*Antiplatelet Agents*

- Aspirin*
- Dipyridamole*
- Thienopyridine*



## ABOUT YOUR MEDICINE

Your doctor has just prescribed for you:

MEDICINE	WHAT IS THE MEDICINE USED FOR?	OTHER NAMES
Aspirin	To make the blood less sticky. By doing so, it reduces the chance of a stroke or heart attack.	Cardiprin <sup>®</sup> , Disprin <sup>®</sup>
Dipyridamole	To make the blood less sticky. Often used with Aspirin to reduce the chance of getting stroke.	Persantin <sup>®</sup>
Thienopyridine group	To make the blood less sticky. It can be taken alone to prevent heart attack or with aspirin.	Ticlopidine (Ticlid <sup>®</sup> ), Clopidogrel (Plavix <sup>®</sup> )

## HOW SHOULD I TAKE THE MEDICINE?

You should take your medicine after a meal to prevent stomach upset. Do not stop taking your medicine without first checking with your doctor.

Depending on the preparation you are taking, some aspirin tablets are to be chewed or sucked before swallowing. You might also be asked to swallow the tablet as a whole without chewing or dissolve it in a glass of water before taking. Consult your pharmacist if you are not sure of the correct way of taking your aspirin tablets.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FORGET A DOSE?

Try not to miss doses. If you do miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember and resume the prescribed schedule. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, do not take the missed dose and do not double your next dose for the missed one.

***Keep all medication out of reach of children.***

## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE MEDICINE?

<b>MEDICINE</b>	<b>POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS</b>
Aspirin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allergic reaction (sneezing, respiratory congestion, swelling of throat, breathlessness, itching or skin rashes).</li><li>• Nausea, indigestion or stomach irritation. This can be minimised by taking enteric coated tablets or aspirin with stomach protecting pill.</li><li>• Unusual bleeding or bruising, ringing noise in ears or bloody urine.</li></ul>
Dipyridamole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dizziness or headache</li><li>• Indigestion and stomach discomfort</li><li>• Rashes</li></ul>
Thienopyridine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stomach irritation</li><li>• Diarrhoea</li><li>• Rashes</li><li>• Low white blood cell or platelet count. If you are taking ticlopidine, your doctor may require you to visit him for regular blood tests.</li></ul>

Please check with your doctor if you experience any unusual side effects when taking your medicine.

***Discard all medication that is outdated or no longer required.***

## **WHAT PRECAUTION SHOULD I TAKE?**

Inform your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to conceive or if you are breast-feeding.

You should also consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medication (either prescription or over-the-counter), nutritional supplements or herbal remedies. Some of these substances can interact with your medicine.

If you are going for a surgical operation, including dental procedures, please inform your doctor as the medicine may need to be discontinued prior to the procedure to prevent excessive bleeding.

## **HOW SHOULD I STORE MY MEDICINE?**

You should keep your medication in the container it came in, tightly closed. Store them away from heat and direct sunlight, in a cool and dry environment.